

[No. 23 of 1895.

Week ending the 8th June 1895.

Page.

Sikh bravery.	443
The Amir's friendship	ib

(a)-Police-

Golf-playing on the Calcutta Maidan	...	ib
The position of the punchayet	...	ib
The bathing festival cases	...	444
Lawlessness in the Kalighat temple	..	ib
A riot in the zamindari of Raja Peary Mohun Mukerji	... ..	ib
Oppression of women in the Mymensingh bathing festival	... ..	ib

(b)—*Working of the Courts—*

The proposed abolition of the Bud-Bud Munsifi in the Burdwan district	...	...	<i>ib</i>
Pleaders' fees in the civil courts	...	...	445
Mr. Radice of Mymensingh	...	...	<i>ib</i>

(c)—Jails—

Nil.

(d)—*Education*—

The Headmastership of the Calcutta Madrasa	...	ib
Anomalies in the Education Department	...	446

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration*—

Want of a burning-ghat in the southern division of Calcutta	...	...	...	...	447
Sanitation of Samastipur	...	...	...	...	448

(f)—Questions affecting the land—

Nil.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—*

The two proposed railway lines	...	...	448
The Assensole rape case	...	...	ib
Separate railway compartments for Europeans and Eurasians	...	...	449
An instance of railway mismanagement	...	...	ib

(h)—General—

The administration of the Sonthal Parganas	...	ib
A postal grievance in the Bankura district	...	450
Knowledge of the vernaculars as an administrative question	... ..	ib

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

The Award of Interest Bill ... 451

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

Nil.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Nil.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The water scarcity in the mufassal	...	...	452
The Birthday honours	...	...	ib
The Birthday honours	...	...	ib
The Birthday honours	...	...	ib
The Birthday honours	...	...	ib

URIYA PAPERS.

The Award of Interest Bill	...	...	453
The death of Mrs. Sara Buckley lamented	...	...	ib
Material development of India	...	...	ib
The question of the court language in Sambalpur	...	...	ib
Temple dispute in the Puri district	...	...	ib
The Rural Sub-Registrar of Jajpur	...	...	ib

ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.		CALCUTTA.			
	<i>Tri-monthly.</i>				
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Banganiyasi" ...	Ditto	" 5,000		
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 20,000	1st June 1895.	
3	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	31st May 1895.	
4	"Mihir" ...	Ditto	.....	
5	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	29th ditto.	
6	"Samay" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	31st ditto.	
7	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	" 3,000	1st June 1895.	
8	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	" 800	3rd ditto.	
9	"Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	" 3,000		
	<i>Daily.</i>				
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	" 200	28th and 29th May and 1st, 3rd, 5th and 6th June 1895.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." ...	Ditto	" 200	2nd to 6th May 1895.	
	"Samvad Prabhakkar" ...	Ditto	" 500	30th May and 1st and 2nd June 1895.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	" 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	" 1,000	31st May and 1st June and 4th to 6th June 1895.	
HINDI.					
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	" 800	30th May 1895.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 9,000	3rd June "	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....	
	<i>Daily.</i>				
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	.....	31st May and 1st and 4th June 1895.	
URDU.					
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto	About 400	30th May 1895.	
2	"General and Gauharisafi" ...	Ditto	" 300		
BENGALI.		BURDWAN DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	" 500	1st June 1895.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	" 298	13th and 27th April 1895.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	350 to 400	28th May 1895.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	500		
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	.....	14th April and 2nd June 1895.	
4	"Education Gazette" ..	Hooghly	754		
BENGALI.		PRESIDENCY DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna	350		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad	280	29th May 1895.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore	200		
3	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto	603	31st ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
URIYA.						
ORISSA DIVISION.						
<i>Monthly.</i>						
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	.....	March 1895.	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....	.....
3	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhanj ...	3			
<i>Weekly.</i>						
1	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190	18th and 25th April and 2nd May 1895.		
2	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309	17th and 24th April 1895.		
3	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412	20th and 27th April and 4th May 1895.		
4	"Sambalpur Patriot" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....
HINDI.						
PATNA DIVISION.						
<i>Monthly.</i>						
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500			
<i>Weekly.</i>						
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000			
URDU.						
<i>Weekly.</i>						
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	23rd and 30th May 1895.		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	25th May 1895.		
3	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	150			
BENGALI.						
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.						
<i>Weekly.</i>						
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....	31st May 1895.	
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283	29th ditto.		
3	"Rangpur Diprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300			
HINDI.						
<i>Monthly.</i>						
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150	.....	
BENGALI.						
DACCA DIVISION.						
<i>Fortnightly.</i>						
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280			
<i>Weekly.</i>						
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900			
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450			
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Ditto ...	250	1st June 1895.		
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ..	500	30th May 1895.		
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.						
<i>Weekly.</i>						
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	3rd June 1895.		
BENGALI.						
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.						
<i>Fortnightly.</i>						
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	.. ..		
<i>Weekly.</i>						
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120			
BENGALI.						
ASSAM.						
<i>Fortnightly.</i>						
1	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	240			
2	"Srihattavasi" ...	Ditto ...	* 160			
* Entry based on information supplied by the Deputy Postmaster-General, Assam.						

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

Referring to the account published in the *India Gazette* of the courage, bravery and devotion shown by a Sikh soldier, Bhola Singh, during the Chitral war, the *Sanjivani* of the

SANJIVANI,
June 1st, 1895.

Sikh bravery.

1st June regrets that the British Government does not sufficiently appreciate or reward these sterling qualities in an Indian soldier. The ill-advised policy of the British Government, the writer is sorry to observe, is rather tending to stamp out the martial qualities of the Indian people. Even the warlike Sikhs are losing their proverbial strength and are becoming diminished in their stature. The Sikh Guru, Gurugovinda Singh, is no more. The Lion of the Panjab is no more. Who shall fitly reward such heroism in the Khalsa Sikh? Where shall the Sikh people learn such heroism?

2. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 4th June has the following about the Khaibar disturbances:—

The Amir's friendship.

BHARAT MITRA,
June 4th, 1895.

The Khaibaris made several attacks upon the British troops posted in the fort of *Zamrood*. It is well known that these people are subjects of the Amir. It is, however, strange that the Amir, who is a faithful ally of the British Government, should allow his subjects to carry on hostilities in this way against the Government which has hitherto spared nothing to make him comfortable. The Amir most probably sells to others those articles of war which he annually receives from the British Government, and the people who purchase those arms harass the British troops.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Hitavadi* of the 31st May says that the poor clerks who live in Bhowanipur, Kalighat, Tollygunge and other places in the southern part of the suburbs of Calcutta, and who walk their way home in the evening across the Maidan, are often handled roughly by soldiers at football. But it is not of this that they have to complain so much, because soldiers being ill-educated men, their roughness is not a wonder, and might be easily avoided by taking care not to come into contact with them. It is the golf-players, who are generally rich European ladies and gentlemen, against whom the poor clerks have most cause for complaint, because the balls they throw often hit these men with force and bring them to the ground. Many people have been actually hit in this way, but nothing has been done to stop the mischief.

HITAVADI,
May 31st, 1895.

The play of golf has of late assumed such proportions that it has become really dangerous to walk across the Maidan in the evening. It is true the players employ boy-servants to warn passers-by; but this warning is of no use to those at some distance. And the conduct of the golf-players is all the more reprehensible because, though they stop playing when they see a syce or a mehtar leading some European gentleman's horse or dog, lest they should strike not the syce or the mehtar, but his animal, they display no such solicitude in regard to a native passing by. But they should remember the moral of *Æsop's* fable of the frogs and the boys. The poor, weak, black natives supplicate the European ladies and gentleman who indulge in this play on the Maidan to take pity on them. This play is stopped for horses and dogs, but not for poor natives! And it is etiquette for these players to burst into a laugh over a native thrown down by one of their balls.

4. The *Bangavasi* of the 1st June says that an explanation has been demanded from about three hundred punchayets of the Tippera district as to why they failed to pay the

The position of the punchayet.

BANGAVASI,
June 1st, 1895.

chaukidars in due time. They have also been called upon to show cause why they should not be criminally prosecuted. Thus a large number of punchayets has been compelled to travel a distance of sixty or eighty miles, and come to Comilla in order to pacify the police authorities. They have been put to great trouble and expense. When so great is the inconvenience incidental to unpaid service, it need not take one long to surmise how great would have been the inconvenience if the service was paid. After this is it necessary to show the reason why the punchayet service is so very unpopular with all respectable gentlemen?

SANJIVANI,
June 1st, 1895.

5. The *Sanjivani* of the 1st June quotes the following from the *Charu Mihir* regarding the Ashtami bathing festival cases:—

The bathing festival cases.

In only one of the six Ashtami bathing festival cases the trying Magistrate has sent up the defendants to the Sessions Court for trial. In another case, viz., that of Haridasi *versus* Tahir Sekh and others, he has sentenced two of the defendants to rigorous imprisonment for one year. The rest of the defendants in this case, as well as the defendants in other cases, have been acquitted for want of sufficient proof of identification. The police was so much neglectful of its duty that it did not put forward sufficient evidence to identify the prisoners.

SANJIVANI.

6. A correspondent of the same paper draws the attention of the police authorities to the lawlessness prevailing in the Kalighat temple. Kalighat is infested by a gang of *gundas*. These ruffians, in conspiracy with the shop-keepers, maltreat the pilgrims who go to bathe in the Kaligunga, rob them and extort money from them in various ways. The temple authorities keep a *durwan* on duty at the bathing ghat, but he, instead of protecting the pilgrims from the maltreatment of the *gundas*, join them in the carrying on of their nefarious practices. A friend of the correspondent was some time ago maltreated by the *durwan* and his ruffianly associates. The gentleman was going to bathe in the Kaligunga when the *durwan* demanded from him some money, and on his refusal to pay, he threatened him with maltreatment. The next time the gentleman went to bathe he was severely assaulted by the *gundas*, so much so that he bled profusely. He was also robbed by the ruffians of all his belongings. Strange to say, when the maltreated gentleman went to the Kalighat police-station to lodge a complaint, the head-constable refused to hear him, and referred him to the Bhowanipur police-station. In the meantime the ruffians took to their heels and made themselves scarce. Such a scandalous state of things should not be tolerated a moment longer.

SANJIVANI.

7. The same paper is also very sorry to learn that there took place recently a riot between the men of Raja Peary Mohun Mukerji and his raiyats of Kedarpur, in which one *lathial* was killed and another severely wounded. One would have expected to see a better state of things in the zamindari of an enlightened and patriotic gentleman like Raja Peary Mohun, who ought to be above the common run of zamindars in Bengal, notorious for their ill-treatment of their raiyats. Riots between raiyats and zamindars are very frequent in this part of the country, and although one would not hold the zamindars alone responsible for these disturbances of the public peace, there is little doubt that the raiyats are rather forced into being a party to them by oppression on the part of the zamindars.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
June 3rd, 1895.

8. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 3rd June says that two young Hindu women who went to bathe in the Brahmaputra in Mymensingh were robbed of their chastity by some Musalman budmashes. The local police knew beforehand of the gathering of these men on the scene of the occurrence, but did not come to the rescue of the poor women. An occurrence like this is unprecedented under the British rule.

(b) Working of the Courts.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 28th, 1895.

9. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 28th May understands that it has been decided to abolish the Bud-Bud munsifi, and transfer the munsif of Bud-Bud to Burdwan. This measure will no doubt bring about some saving of revenue, but will at the same time be a source of great inconvenience to the public. In the whole tract of country between Raniganj and Burdwan, covering an area of about 120 miles, there was only one munsifi; and now that it is going to be abolished, people will have to undergo the trouble and expense of travelling this whole distance in order to have their disputes settled in Burdwan. It is surely to be regretted that the Government does not think it at all necessary to consult the interests of the people when they happen to clash with its own. If the munsif of Bud-Bud had been provided with better house-accommodation, even if, after the abolition of the criminal court in Bud-Bud, the house of the Deputy Magistrate had not been pulled down but kept standing for the use of

the munsif, the Government would not have had to abolish the Bud-Bud munsifi. This proposed abolition being, it is well known, simply due to the difficulty of getting proper house-accommodation for the munsif in Bud-Bud. To provide better house-accommodation for the munsif in Bud-Bud would not, however, have been at all a very costly affair. An expense of Rs. 2000 would have been sufficient to build a commodious house for the munsif, and the Government could have easily realized more than the cost by charging a rent from the munsif which he would have gladly paid. But the fact is that the Government considers it unnecessary and unprofitable to advance a few thousand rupees for such purposes, while it does not hesitate to spend lakhs upon lakhs in such profitless undertakings—to it, however, most necessary and profitable—as the making of roads and bridges in Chitral.

Even if the Government is obliged to transfer the munsifi from Bud-Bud, it should transfer it to Mankar instead of Burdwan. In that case people will not be put to inconvenience, while the munsif will not feel the hardship of getting proper house-accommodation. Mankar is a flourishing place, and a munsifi should be located there.

10. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 29th May says that the scale of Pleders' fees in the civil courts. pleaders' fees, as fixed by the civil courts, is a source of hardship to the suitors. At present a successful suitor is granted by the court the power to realize from the unsuccessful party pleader's fee at the rate of five per cent up to the value of Rs. 5,000 when the case is not decreed *ex-parte*. When the case is decreed *ex-parte* he gets only half the amount as pleader's fee. In the case of suits of considerable value, no difficulty is experienced by the suitors, but in the case of suits of small value, he has to undergo great inconvenience and has in fact to pay, as pleader's fee, more than he gets at present. For instance, if the value of the suit be Rs. 5, the successful suitor will get only 2 annas as pleader's fee from the opposite party, while he will have to pay at least one rupee to engage the services of a competent lawyer. The existing scale of pleaders' fees should therefore be revised, and the minimum of such fee should be fixed at one rupee. For the same reason a higher scale of fees should be fixed by the appellate courts.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
May 29th, 1895.

11. The *Hitavadi* of the 31st May has the following:—
Mr. Radice of Mymensingh. It is exceedingly unjust to oppress a man because he has failed to do due obeisance to a person of superior rank or position. But there is no knowing how many men of respectable birth are subjected to humiliation in this country for this reason. The *Charu Mihir* newspaper of Mymensingh reports that Mr. Radice, Joint-Magistrate of the place, abused and expelled from his court one Mahmud Hossein, a mukhtar, because he did not stand up and render obeisance to Dr. Calvert when the latter entered the court as a witness. Such an event would have been no wonder under the rule of Nero or Seraj-ud-daulah, or in the court of Jeffreys or Scrogge. But under the rule of the Empress Victoria and in the Viceroyalty of Lord Elgin, it is rather strange, and is calculated to undermine the loyalty of the Indian people.

HITAVADI,
May 31st, 1895.

(d)—Education.

12. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 30th May has the following about the Headmastership of the Calcutta Madrassa, which is about to fall vacant by the retirement of Mr. Lorimer:—

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
May 30th, 1895.

The Headmastership of the Calcutta Madrassa. A European or Eurasian will probably be appointed in the place of the present Head Master of the Calcutta Madrassa, in supersession of the claims of the Muhammadan candidates. Owing to the paucity of competent Muhammadans, the post of the Head Master of the Institution has hitherto been held by Hindus or Christians, but there is now-a-days no want of competent Muhammadans. The post is one which ought to be given to Muhammadans, considering that the Calcutta Madrassa is the centre of Muhammadan education, and that under the coaching of a Muhammadan Head Master, students are likely to be cured of the growing spirit of unruliness and impertinence which is now observed among them. Maulvi Ashrof Ali, M.A., Head Master of the zilla school, Bandah, in the North-Western Provinces, can be recommended as the fittest

person for the post. He is a Master of Art in English, as well as a Doctor in Muhammadan theology and Arabic literature. His appointment is desirable in the interest not only of the Calcutta Madrassa but also of Arabic education generally throughout the province.

SAMAY,
May 31st, 1895.

13. The *Samay* of the 31st May has the following:—

Anomalies in the Education Department.

Of the native School Inspectors employed at present in Government service, the two who keep themselves in evidence the most are Rai Radhika Prasanna Mukerji Bahadur, Inspector of the Presidency Circle, and Babu Dinanath Sen, officiating Inspector of the Dacca Circle. Both these gentlemen, it is no secret, transact their business at home, and are scarcely seen to stir out of the four corners of their place of residence. If, however, they had been as conscientious and painstaking officials as Rai Brahma Mohan Mallik Bahadur, the retired Inspector of Schools, no one would have had any reason to object to their home-staying proclivities. But their conduct is unfortunately not above suspicion. They pass a large portion of their time in transacting their own domestic and private affairs, in getting up a following of flatterers and parasaties, in writing books, and in getting them published. Thus, they have to devote their attention to a very large extent to the transaction of their own private affairs, and to that very extent they necessarily fail to devote their attention to the performance of their official duties. Moreover, being so very closely mixed up with the conflicting interests of friends and rivals, they cannot but perpetrate acts of injustice and tyranny. To keep such men, therefore, in one particular place for a length of time is highly prejudicial to the interests of the public.

It cannot be said that the Government is not aware of the existence of this predominant evil. Only a few months ago, the Lieutenant-Governor observed in his resolution on the working of the Education Department, that Babu Dinanath Sen did not, during the period under review, go very far out of his native place on his tours of inspection. The reason why Babu Dinanath always takes particular care not to go very far from home, is not far to seek. The advantages of such a practice are many. It allows the Inspector to pay frequent visits to his home whenever a necessity arises, and, if he is not blessed with a very scrupulous conscience, he can at the same time draw his pay as well as travelling allowance by inspecting a few schools on his way home, and reporting himself on duty when he is really engaged in the transaction of his private affairs. Such incidents do not fail to come to the notice of the educational authorities, who strongly condemn the delinquencies, but do not punish the delinquents. The natural consequence of all this is that the erring officials get more and more emboldened, and thinking that their faults are countenanced, they continue their practice without let or hindrance. The Government could, however, easily check this objectionable practice by laying it down as a rule that no inspecting officer shall visit a school more than twice a year, except on special grounds, or by transferring the Inspectors, like their Deputies and Sub-Deputies, every five years from one circle to another. But the educational authorities seem to be quite unmindful of their duties, and it is to their negligence that we should attribute the existence of these predominant anomalies in the Education Department, the number of which is growing every day under the rule of the present Lieutenant-Government of Bengal.

The evil, however, does not remain confined to the Inspector. It spreads to his subordinates; and thus in course of time the whole Department becomes rotten and corrupted. The head of the Department being himself corrupted cannot have the moral courage to punish his subordinates for corruption, and thus its current is allowed to flow unchecked through the ramifications of the Education Department. A few examples will suffice to give one an idea of this anomalous state of things:—

- (1) In many instances, the large number of books which are presented to the office of the Inspector of Schools becomes his property or the property of his friends, relations or subordinates. Sometimes they are presented as prizes, their prices being charged from the Government and misappropriated by the Inspector and his staff. Sometimes these books are directly sold to bookshops

having dealings with the Inspector's office, and are also similarly misappropriated.

- (2) A part of the money which is charged on account of the purchase of furniture for the use of the Inspector's office is also misappropriated. These furniture are also often used by the Inspector and his staff as their own private property. Whenever an instance of this practice is detected, the head of the Department, being himself a delinquent, tries his best to hush up the matter. From time to time there is held a sale of the office furniture, but this sale is not publicly advertised, and the office staff are thus enabled to purchase them at nominal prices. Sometimes high prices are charged for articles purchased at lower prices.
- (3) When there is a vacancy in the Inspector's office, it is not publicly advertised, and the Inspector appoints to the vacant post one of his friends or relations, without paying the least attention to his qualifications.
- (4) Some of the Inspectors pay frequent visits to their homes, practically at the expense of the public exchequer. As stated above, they manage to inspect a few schools on their way home, and are thus enabled to charge their travelling allowances in addition to their pay.
- (5) There are some Inspectors who have invented a very clever device, by which they manage to inspect schools without paying them a single visit. They make the school masters who are tools in their hands, bring the school registers and the "inspection books" to their home, where they record in the "inspection book" a fictitious account of inspection, together with a favourable opinion on the progress of the schools in question. In this way they are able to show a large percentage of inspections without stirring out of their homes.
- (6) The books written by their *protégés* and patrons are extensively patronised by the Inspectors.
- (7) Some Inspectors are known to have failed to inspect a single school for a length of time on account of their drunkenness and debauchery, and to have presented false bills, charging their pay and allowance for a period during which they did not actually do any work of inspection. These men, however, have been allowed to carry on this nefarious practice without let or hindrance, and at last to honorably retire from the Government service.

These few instances will give one but a faint idea of the corruptions prevailing in the Education Department. If an upright and keen-sighted officer is appointed to make a shifting inquiry into the existing condition of things in the Education Department, he will be able to bring to light these and many other instances of corruption which is eating into its very core. But who is to get such an inquiry instituted? Not the present Lieutenant-Governor, who will not be sorry to see the Education Department going to wreck and ruin. The Director of Public Instruction, too, has his reasons not to take any step to reform his Department. The general public also does not take a lively interest in the educational affairs, and it is not likely that they will demand a speedy reform of the corrupt Department. The faint cry of half-a-dozen upright men will die in the air without rousing the attention of the educational authorities. They will not be able to do any good to the public, but their fearless conduct may create for them many enemies who may after all succeed in ruining them. It is therefore extremely necessary that the public press and the public associations should come to their help, and jointly demand a speedy reform of the Education Department.

(e).—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

14. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 31st May draws attention to the inconvenience which is felt by people in the southern parts of Calcutta, such as Entally, Taltala, Bowbazar, Puddopukur, Napitbazar, Muchipara,

Want of a burning-ghat in the southern division of Calcutta.

HITAVADI,
May 31st, 1895.

Fenwick Bazar, &c., for want of a burning ghat in the southern quarter of the town. A burning ghat in some place to the south of Fort William would be a boon to these people. The Health Officer's attention is directed to this matter.

SANJIVANI,
June 1st, 1895.

15. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 1st June says that cholera of a virulent type has broken out in Samastipur in Darbhanga. It is not sparing even the European residents. The Magistrate has issued a notice in which he says that any person who will not dispose of the dirt and filth accumulating in the compound of his house, will be criminally prosecuted. So far so good. But who is to remove the heap of filth which will now be thrown out into the streets and will accumulate there? The establishment of a municipality is sorely needed in these parts of Darbhanga, and it should be established notwithstanding the opposition of the local railway officials.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

SAHACHAR,
May 29th, 1895.

16. The *Sahachar* of the 29th May has the following observations on the proposal to construct a railway line either from Moghulserai to Gaya or from Calcutta *via* Chota Nagpur to the North-Western Provinces:—

The Directors of the East Indian Railway, who have proposed a line from Moghulserai to Gaya, urge in support of their proposal that such a line would give great facilities to the Calcutta merchants. But no, as the Chamber of Commerce also say. Delivery of goods at Howrah is a very inconvenient arrangement for the Calcutta merchants, which would not improve even if the Railway Company were to arrange for the giving and taking of delivery in Calcutta, because the accommodation in the Calcutta jetties would not be sufficient for the purpose. A railway from Calcutta has therefore become an absolute necessity in the commercial interests of the metropolis. The line proposed by the East Indian Railway authorities might have proved very useful twenty years ago, but it will be out of date now, because the commerce of the country has undergone quite a revolution during the last quarter of a century. Their proposal should not therefore be allowed to interfere with the proposal made by the Chamber of Commerce. A Gaya-Moghulserai line will open up no fresh fields to commerce, and will render no additional commercial service to the country which it will traverse—a country which is already well served by the existing railways. The other line proposed will tap a country which, from the unsatisfactory character of the existing transport arrangements therein, is still untouched by commercial enterprise. It will develop the resources of Chota Nagpur, a province which has long been famous for its mineral wealth and its agricultural produce. It is hoped that the Governments, both in this country and in England, will realise the soundness of the Chamber's proposal and grant their prayer.

SANJIVANI,
June 1st, 1895.

17. The *Sanjivani* of the 1st June writes as follows:—

The Assensole rape case. Assensole is one of the principal stations on the East Indian Railway. The station staff consists of young Eurasian ticket-collectors and clerks who are all improperly educated, badly trained and devoid of all moral principles. The low caste people of this country have some idea of moral propriety, but these men are so many beasts in human shape. Unfortunately, however, the Railway Company are in these days in the habit of employing Eurasians whenever available in preference to natives. And it is no wonder that we should come to hear so much of their misconduct. The Assensole station in particular has become a veritable camping ground for these young ruffianly Eurasian officials. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that a few days ago a young girl of 12 or 13, Rajabala Dasi by name, was travelling on the East Indian Railway. When the train reached the Assensole station, one of the Eurasian ticket-collectors on duty went to examine her ticket. She, however, could not show her ticket, and said that it was lost on the way and she would pay when she reached her destination. The ticket-collector, however, pulled her down from the carriage and afterwards, in company with a few of his associates, committed a brutal assault upon her. We learn, with a good deal of surprise, that when the girl went to the railway police

to complain against the conduct of the ruffians, it took her into custody, did not send any information to her guardians, did not make the least attempt to arrest the offenders, and did not allow a word of the scandalous affair to reach the railway authorities. All these circumstances lead us to suspect that the railway police was a party in this disgraceful affair, and the railway authorities should institute an inquiry into its conduct. When the matter came to the notice of the railway authorities they did nothing more than dismiss the guard implicated in the affair, and fine two of the ticket-collectors their three days' pay. The remaining offenders escaped scotfree. The disgraceful affair would have thus disgracefully ended had not the District Magistrate and the Sub-divisional Officer of Assensole come to hear of the whole affair, and after due inquiry handed over the offenders to the police for prosecution. The offenders are now released on bail and will be tried by the Joint-Magistrate of Raniganj. The poor girl is helpless and will not be able to produce much evidence. The public, however, anxiously await the result of the trial of Eurasians by a European Magistrate.

18 With reference to the Government orders that from the 1st July all the Indian railways should set apart second class compartments for Europeans and Eurasians, the *Bangavasi* of the 1st June observes:—A separate arrangement of travelling is made for Europeans and Eurasians who have no caste scruples, but no such arrangement is made for the Hindus of higher classes to whom the very touch of the people of low classes and of the *mlechchhas* (non-Hindus) is pollution. There seems to be some foundation for the opinion of those who hold that the railway in India is meant as the most powerful leveller of all caste distinctions. A good deal of care is taken to respect the vanity of the ruling race, but not the least attempt is made to respect even the most tenderly-nourished religious scruples of the subject people. All this shows in a marked way the difference between the rulers and the ruled, and yet there are men too blind to see this difference or to understand that they belong to the subject race.

BANGAVASI,
June 1st, 1895.

19. The same paper draws the attention of the railway authorities to a recent accident on the East Indian Railway, which is one of the many instances of railway mismanagement in this country. A woman with a child was travelling in a railway carriage on the East Indian Railway. She had to get down at the Bainchi station, but when the train reached that station she found the doors locked up. Her repeated calls were not responded to by the railway peons, and so she set down the child and her luggage on the platform through the window of the compartment, and in great confusion tried to get down herself through the opening. At that moment the train was in motion, and the poor woman fell down and had one of her legs severed from her body. This sad accident was no doubt due to the carelessness of the station staff. Many are the irregularities of the station officers, and it is necessary that something should be done to put a stop to them.

BANGAVASI.

(h)—General.

20. The *Hitavadi* of the 31st May has the following in an article headed "Zulm in British dominion":—
The administration of the Sonthal Parganas. The Sonthal Parganas are a part of British territory, but being a non-regulation district, much more injustice and oppression are committed there than in other parts of the Empire. The officials there generally exercise despotic power and conduct themselves in a most high-handed manner, partly because they are vested with large powers, and partly because the people there are timid and illiterate, not a soul daring to protest against any acts of the authorities, or to disobey their orders.

HITAVADI,
May 31st, 1895.

By Regulation V of 1893, the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas has been vested with the powers of a Sessions Judge, that is, with absolute power over the lives and liberty of the people. About ten or eleven years ago the powers of the Sessions Judge were taken away from the executive in the Sonthal Parganas, and the authorities alone can say why those powers have been restored.

From what we saw last year during our visit to Baidyanath, we could hardly believe that the Sonthal Parganas belonged to British territory, or were a part and parcel of it. We naturally felt some hesitation in giving the name of British territory to the place in which no check is placed upon the absolute power of the officials, and where the officials consequently submit to no rule and restriction. There are Radices, Phillipases and Beatson Bells in other districts. But the very outcry and the newspaper agitation against them show that their number is not many, and that though there may be a high-handed official here and there, the province is, generally speaking, free from such administrators. In the Sonthal Parganas, however, oppression meets with no check, and there is no agitation against oppression.

Baidyanath in the Deoghur subdivision is a place of pilgrimage for the Hindus and, as is the case with all such places, is full of mendicants who live there upon the alms they receive from the pilgrims. We never like that able-bodied men should live by begging, nor do we admire those who would encourage them to live in that way. But we consider it rather hard that the authorities should punish religious mendicants in Baidyanath because they go about begging almost in a nude state. Two such men were, however, actually punished with fines the other day. The punishment of such men is repugnant to the feelings of the Hindus, and looks like oppression in their eyes. Again, Mr. Heard of Deoghur is punishing with fine all those house-owners of Baidyanath who let their houses without taking licenses under the Pilgrims' Lodging-house Act. He says that everybody is a pilgrim-lodger who is not the owner of the house he lodges in, or a member of his family or his servant. He also compels those shop-keepers who let out portions of their shop premises to other shop-keepers on the occasion of a *mela* or religious festival, to take out licenses under the Lodging-house Act. Again, notices under the seal of the Court are issued to *ghatwals* requiring them, on pain of punishment, to supply without excuse or protest, fowls, eggs, &c., within a prescribed number of days. It is difficult to understand under what law such peremptory orders are issued. Such unlawful careering of the officials can be checked only by some bold *ghatwal* protesting against such orders and refusing to carry them out. But so bold a man is not to be found among the *ghatwals*. There being nothing or none to call these high-handed officers to account, they are growing more and more despotic. As a matter of fact they conduct themselves like the Caliphs of Arabia or the Nawabs of old, doing anything they like, making what rules they please, absenting themselves at their own sweet will from their official duties, and serving, kith and kin, in one and the same place.

BANKURA DARPAN,
June 1st, 1895.

21. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st June draws the attention of the postal authorities to the great inconvenience which is experienced by the inhabitants of the villages under the Raipur *thana* in the Bankura district in receiving their postal communications in due time. The Raipur *thana* comprises an area of about 333 square miles, and has a population of over a lakh. Within this large area, however, there is only one post office with only two peons attached to it. Letters are therefore not properly delivered, as it is impossible for two peons to regularly serve some thousands of villages. It is therefore highly necessary that the postal authorities should establish a few more post offices in the Raipur *thana*, or at least increase the number of peons attached to the Raipur post office and increase its staff by engaging the services of a few village schoolmasters. The authorities need not at all feel any doubt about the success of such a measure. The additional expenditure incurred will be met by the increased income. If the convenience of the people is increased, they will be encouraged to take advantage of the post office oftener than now. At present they have lost all confidence in the post office, and do not care to communicate through it.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
June 6th, 1895.

22. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 6th June has the following :—

Knowledge of the vernaculars as an administrative question.

The English official's ignorance of the people's languages is a fruitful source of inconvenience to the Government and of waste of public revenue. It is this ignorance that has necessitated the maintenance of a large establishment of interpreters and translators in the various departments of the public service. The courts of justice

are presided over by Englishmen, and everything transacted there in the vernacular has to be done into English. Even in those courts which are presided over by Native Judges and Magistrates, the judgments and the depositions of witnesses are to be written in English for the convenience of the higher courts, which are, with a few solitary exceptions, presided over by Englishmen. The vernacular papers have to be done into English before the Government officials can understand them and study public opinion as therein expressed. The reports and resolutions of the Government are all written in English, and they have to be translated to the people. Legislative measures are prepared in English, and they have to be translated before the people are in a position to understand their meaning. So we see that in almost every department of the public service, there has to be maintained an establishment whose only duty is to translate the language of the people to the Government and the language of the Government to the people. But such an interpretation of languages is not always safe and convenient. The spirit, the peculiarity, the inner meaning of a language are often lost in the translation; they are never well conveyed in a foreign tongue. The English officials' ignorance of the people's languages is therefore not only a source of unnecessary expenditure, but is also a source of great difficulty in administering the country.

But all this difficulty, inconvenience and expenditure might be avoided if the English officials were compelled to learn the vernaculars of the province in which they serve. A knowledge of the vernaculars should be made a qualification for entrance into the public service, and its ignorance should be made to entail dismissal from it. But the knowledge of the vernaculars to be thus demanded from the English officials should be more than a superficial and smattering knowledge; it should be something better than the knowledge which some Englishmen now-a-days condescend to acquire, and which makes them translate "গোপালে উড়ের যাত্রা" (the melodramatic performance by the Uriya Gopal) into "the flying expedition of Gopal" and "combustible matter" into "জলীয় পদার্থ" (liquid substance). Englishmen are in the habit of making much of a few solitary mistakes committed by Bengali boys in writing and speaking English; but the knowledge of Bengali which is displayed by those Englishmen who pass the higher examinations in Bengali with distinction should drive one into bursting fits of laughter. But the English conceit is proverbial. And it is their conceit which stands in the way of the English officials properly studying the languages of the subject people.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

23. The *Bangavasi* of the 1st June says that if, under the proposed law on the award of interest, the interest is never allowed to exceed the principal, litigation to realize it will be far more frequent than at present. This will bring additional revenue to the Government, but it will not benefit the indebted raiyat in any way. On the other hand he will be obliged, in order to save himself, to enter into a fresh contract with his creditor, in which the accumulated interest, as well as the costs of litigation incurred by the latter, will be entered as principal. He will have thus to pay interest not only of the original principal, but also of its interest and of the costs of litigation. The inevitable consequence of the law will therefore be to ruin him speedily. It will also strain the relations between the debtor and the creditor just as the rent law has strained the relations between the zamindar and the raiyat. Even now there exists a happy friendly relation between the debtor and the creditor, and instances are not rare of cases where a Mahajan has advanced loan to a family of raiyats for three generations together without ever thinking during that long period of suing them for the realization of unpaid dues. On the other hand, even when his debtors cannot even expect to pay off his dues, he does not hesitate to help them with advance of money at a time of distress. If Mr. Roy's Bill is passed into law, this happy state of things will no longer exist. The proposed Bill will therefore do more harm than good to the raiyats for whose benefit it is intended.

BANGAVASI,
June 1st, 1895.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SANACHAR,
May 29th, 1895.

24. The *Sanachar* of the 29th May says that after the Madras famine Lord Lytton personally visited the afflicted tracts, and was so moved by what he saw that he created the famine fund in order to insure against similar visitations in future. So if His Honour Sir Charles Elliott were just now to come down for a week or two from the cool heights of Darjeeling and visit some Bengal villages at some distance from large rivers, his heart would certainly so melt at the sight of their unfortunate residents, almost dying for want of drinking-water in this dreadful weather, that he would feel impelled to make prompt provision for a full supply of drinking-water for their use. The intense heat of this year has dried up almost every reservoir of water, except the large rivers, and people have to walk miles together in the scorching sun in order to get even a scanty supply of impure water. Government cannot deny that one of the primary objects of the road cess was the making of a provision for water-supply. It has not carried out that object, probably in the belief that roads are more important than drinking-water. But it is time that it disabused itself of this idea. Never, in its history, had the country good roads, but its trade and commerce nevertheless always prospered. That there was till late years no complaint regarding drinking-water is because, before the imposition of the road cess, zamindars lavishly spent their money on the excavation and re-excavation of tanks. Since the imposition of that cess the zamindars have been thinking their duty to their raiyats in this respect discharged for good. This attitude on the part of the zamindars and the Government's apathy in the matter have brought about the present water famine, and filled the country with such diseases as cholera, malaria, &c. It has, therefore, become the paramount duty of Government to spend a part of the road cess money on water-supply.

SAMAY,
May 31st, 1895.

25. The *Samay* of the 31st May is glad to see the title of Raja bestowed on Maharaj Kumar Binaya Krishna Deb. Scion of an aristocratic family, he forms an exception to the general run of men of his class. He takes a lively interest in all movements, literary, social or political, and he gives substantive proof of his sincerity by lavishly spending money in the furtherance of such movements.

SARASWAT PATRA,
June 1st, 1895.

26. In reference to the Birthday honours, the *Saraswat Patra* of the 1st June observes as follows:—

The Birthday honours. The only person in East Bengal who has obtained a title is Babu Jogendra Krishna Rai Chaudhuri, zamindar of Ramgopalpur. But the title of Rai Bahadur has not been a fit recognition of his services to his country, of his personal character, and of his able management of his large zamindari. The public had long expected to see him made a Raja, and they are therefore greatly disappointed. It is to be hoped that the earliest possible opportunity will be taken to confer upon him the higher title.

Babu Brahma Mohan Mallik, late Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Circle, has been fitly rewarded with the title of Rai Bahadur. But every one is sorry and surprised at not finding the name of an able and worthy officer like Babu Dina Nath Sen, Inspector of Schools, Eastern Circle, in the honours list. There is another bad omission in the list, and that is the name of Babu Kafi Prasanna Ghosh, who is not only well versed in Sanskrit grammar and literature and the foremost Bengali speaker and writer of the day, but is also the able, and upright manager of a large estate in East Bengal.

SANJIVANI,
June 1st, 1895.

27. The *Sanjivani* of the 1st June is very glad to observe that the title of Raja has been conferred on Maharaj Kumar Binaya Krishna Deb. He belongs to a noble family and takes a lively interest in all healthful movements and undertakings.

BANGAVASI,
June 1st, 1895.

28. It is said, says the *Bangavasi* of the 1st June, that Maharaj-Kumar Binaya Krishna Deb of Sobha Bazar is made a Raja, because he takes a prominent part in social reform movements, and paid a handsome donation of Rs. 15,000 for the opening of a play-ground for native school-boys. That the son of a Maharaja should be made a Raja is no wonder, but his admirers are not acting discreetly or adding to the honour bestowed on him by divining what they consider to be the cause of its bestowal.

URIYA PAPERS.

The Award of Interest Bill.

Award of Interest Bill.

30. The *Utkaldipika* of the 20th April notices with regret the death of Sara Buckley, wife of the late Dr. Buckley, who had made Orissa her home, and who had endeared herself to all the sections of the native community by her charity and love.

The death of Mrs. Sara Buckley lamented.

29. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 17th April has no objection to the provisions of the

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
April 17th, 1895.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 20th, 1895.

her charity and love.

31. Referring to the convocation speech of His Excellency the Governor of Madras, the same paper points out that the natives of India keenly feel that their success in life depends on the development of their country's material resources, and that they cannot make much progress in that way without sincere and substantial help from the Government.

Material development of India.

UTKALDIPIKA.

32. Referring to the subject of the court language in Sambalpur, the *Utkaldipika* of the 20th and 27th April and the 4th May, points out in a series of articles that the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces should follow the example of the Bengal Government in compelling his officers to learn the Uriya language, either by promise of promotion or by offer of reward, and not ask the people of that district to learn a foreign dialect (*Hindi*); that the Chief Commissioner is mistaken in thinking that *Uriya* will die out naturally in Sambalpur and its Feudatory States, as the agitation set on foot by his impolitic resolution points to a growing discontentment in the minds of the Uriya-speaking people, who must strive hard to protect their mother-tongue against official aggression; that the introduction of *Hindi* will put the Uriya-speaking people of Sambalpur into great inconvenience in various ways; that it would be very difficult for them to learn *Hindi* in addition to *English* and *Uriya*; and that the introduction of *Hindi* into Sambalpur will give rise to a hybrid dialect, partly composed of Uriya and partly of Hindi words, which is not in any way desirable.

The question of the court language in Sambalpur.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 20th and 27th
and May 4th 1895.

33. A correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* of the 27th April informs the public that a dispute among the servants of the Bhuvaneshwar temple, in the Puri district, has induced the Managing Committee in charge of the temple to close the temple doors for a short time, and that this has offended the Hindu worshippers as a body.

Temple dispute in the Puri district.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 27th, 1895.

34. The *Utkaldipika* of the 4th May is sorry to learn from its Jajpur correspondent that the temporary absence of the Rural Sub-Registrar of that place from that subdivision, causes great inconvenience to its people, who find themselves unable on this account to have their deeds registered in time. The writer expects the authorities concerned to make better arrangements in future.

The Rural Sub-Registrar of Jajpur.

UTKALDIPIKA,
May 4th, 1895.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 8th June 1895.

